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Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - August - September 1985" (1985). *American Irish Newsletter*. Paper 191.

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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 10, No. 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 1985

THE QUEEN OF THE KLONDIKE

by Dr. Roger McGrath (PEC, California)

Daring and successful business ventures made Belinda Mulroney one of the legendary figures of the stampede to the Klondike. She had strong morals, indefatigable drive, great intelligence, and an adventurous nature. The Mulroneys had been a powerful sept in Gaelic Ireland before they were finally subjugated by the MacGuires. Belinda Mulroney obviously carried some of this power in her blood.

Mulroney's parents had immigrated from Ireland to Scranton, Pennsylvania. There Belinda Mulroney was raised. At the tender age of 18 she went off to the Columbian Exposition of 1892-93 in Chicago to open a restaurant and to make her fortune. She earned \$8,000, which was a small fortune in those days, and went off to California.

Mulroney's luck did not hold in the Golden State. She promptly lost all her money. Undaunted, she shipped aboard the *City of Topeka*, which plied the waters of the Pacific from San Francisco to Alaska, as a stewardess. She quickly gained a reputation for her business acumen, resourcefulness, quick wit, and sharp tongue. When an English passenger aboard the *City of Topeka* condescendingly told her to black his boots, she looked him in the eye and told him that if he so much as dared to put them outside his cabin door she would pour a pitcher of water on them.

When, on her first voyage, a baby had to be delivered, Mulroney did the job herself, while the ship's captain stood discreetly outside the cabin door and read instructions from a medical text. The captain soon put Mulroney in charge of purchasing all the ship's supplies. She bought everything from machinery to canaries and charged the captain a 10% commission for her services. He still thought he got a deal. On the side she sold hats and dresses to Indian squaws in the coastal towns of the Pacific Northwest.

By the spring of 1897 when news of the Klondike strike in the

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NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

The Reagan Administration has rejected a request by the Catholic Bishops of America that he use his "good offices" with Mrs. Thatcher to bring about a settlement in Northern Ireland. The Reagan Administration did not take any action in protest of the August 12, 1984 attack on American citizens by British forces in Belfast because none of the Americans injured filed complaints with the U.S. Embassy in No. Ireland (PEC-AINS 7/85).

Irishman, Bob Geldorf has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his "unique effort to save suffering Africans". Geldorf, leader of the Irish rock band, The Boomtown Rats, was the moving force behind the phenomenally successful Live Aid concerts held in Philadelphia and London. Ireland contributed more per head of population than any other country. (Irish Times 7/15/85) . . . "The re-routing of Orange Marches from Catholic areas in the North has led to an outcry amongst Unionist leaders. (IAUC 7/12/85).

N.Y.C. Comptroller Harrison Goldin, after touring N.I. to determine American corporations policies on fair employment, found

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PEC 10th ANNIVERSARY TESTIMONIAL DANCE

Saturday, September 14, 1985

St. Catharine's Hall
(Blauvelt, NY)

Music by
John Egan & The Irish Tradewinds

Honored Guests are: Congressman Benjamin Gilman; Peter King, Nassau County Comptroller; Michael "Mickey" Maye, Asst. to the President, Teamsters Local 237 and former President, Uniformed Firefighters Association; and Thomas Morahan, Rockland County Legislator.

We will also honor two organizations that have been very supportive of the PEC; The Rockland Irish American Cultural Center and The American Fenian Black Kilts Bagpipe Band.

Guest Speaker will be Mary Holt Moore, President of the Council of Gaelic Societies.

Tickets are \$17.50 per person which includes: Hot & Cold Buffet, Wine & Beer, Set-ups, Irish Soda Bread, Tea & Coffee.

Please make reservations in advance as seating will be limited. We urge you to please support this important event as it is special. It will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the PEC.

For reservations or information please call: (914) 359-0069 or (914) 947-2998.

BRITAIN'S "OFFICIAL" TERRORISM

by Fr. Desmond Wilson

(The author, a Belfast social worker, is an official and highly respected representative of the Nationalist Community).

Two of the most important forces with which the British government keeps control of Northern Ireland are the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR). Both are notorious.

But like all forces which have been allowed to kill, imprison without trial and torture, they are given a veneer of respectability by British Information Services. Thus for example, the UDR is compared to the National Guard in the United States. If the National Guard was created from one section of the people for the purpose of keeping one party in power forever, then there is a resemblance between the two forces. It is generally understood in Ireland that this is not what the National Guard is for; nor is it meant to provide a new home for members of one of the most discredited police forces in Europe, the Northern Ireland Government's B Specials.

If the British Government is forced to admit that evil things have been done by these two forces — and there are times when no denial is possible — the classic defense is that there are, perhaps, twenty or so "bad apples" in the forces and that once these are removed, as they will be of course, then all will be well. The "bad apple" theory has been current for a long time, since the time indeed when the British Government at last came to admit that anything was wrong in Northern Ireland at all.

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Yukon reached the Alaskan Panhandle, Mulroney had amassed \$5,000. She took a daring gamble and invested it all in cotton goods and hot-water bottles. With the help of two hired Indian hands she packed her goods over Chilkoot Pass and floated on a raft down the Yukon River to the mining camp of Dawson, fast becoming the great boom town of the Far North.

Upon reaching Dawson, Mulroney contemptuously threw her last fifty-cent piece into the river. She swore she would never again need such small change. She was right. She sold her cotton goods and hot water bottles on Dawson's main street at a 600% profit. She opened a lunch counter, which was packed daily, and hired a group of young men to build cabins, which she sold as fast as they were built.

But Mulroney wanted to be closer to the mines. With the aid of an old mule she hauled lumber up Bonanza Creek and there, in the midst of the mines, she began to build a road house. Her friends tried in vain to convince her that Dawson was the place to open a hotel and saloon. Rivals in Dawson jeered her. By the fall of 1897 her roadhouse, the Magnet, was open and Belinda Mulroney herself stood behind the bar. Eggs cost a dollar apiece and whiskey and cigars sold at the highest prices in the Klondike. No matter. Her roadhouse was packed nightly.

Mulroney always kept her ears open for mining gossip and shrewdly noted every new development. Before the winter was out she owned half a dozen valuable mining properties.

Belinda Mulroney was not one to cross. When a boat loaded with supplies, including foodstuffs which were at a premium in the Klondike, was wrecked on a sandbar, Mulroney went into partnership with Alex McDonald to salvage the cargo. McDonald was a huge, Catholic Highlander from Nova Scotia who had begun his stay in the Far North as a laborer. Through acquisition of one mining property after another he was becoming a multi-millionaire — at least on paper — and would soon be known worldwide as the "King of the Klondike."

Mulroney and McDonald had a crew salvage the boat but McDonald had the goods divided before Mulroney got there. McDonald took the foodstuffs for himself and left the cases of whiskey and rubber boots for Mulroney. Since foodstuffs were far more valuable in Dawson with winter approaching and starvation a very real possibility, McDonald had pulled a fast one.

"You'll pay through the nose for this," Belinda told Big Alex. She meant it. The next spring, as fate would have it, a rapid snow melt left the Klondike flooded. Work in the mines was impossible without rubber boots. None other than Big Alex McDonald arrived at Mulroney's roadhouse looking for rubber boots for his men. Belinda sold Big Alex the boots all right, but she made him pay \$100 a pair — the equivalent of \$2,000 today — for them.

During the spring and summer of 1898, Mulroney built the Fairview Hotel on Dawson's main street — Front Street. The Fairview was the most elegant hotel in the Far North. It had 22 steam-heated rooms, electric lights, and Turkish steam baths. Dining tables were spread with linen, sterling silver, and bone china.

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The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

(formerly the Political Education Committee National Newsletter)
founded in 1976

Published by: The American-Irish National Political Education Committee, with the support of the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York.

Malloy Building

Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980

Editor John J. Finucane

Assistant Editor Andy Prior

Please Read

IMPORTANT RENEWAL NOTICE

Once a year in April, the PEC sends out an appeal for donations from its members. These donations which are most important in supporting the work of the PEC, are *not* membership/subscription renewals. Some members have misinterpreted this and think that when they send their donation they are also renewing their membership (subscription). This is not the case. Renewal notices are mailed out separately according to the month in which you joined. Also, some members might be receiving two or more copies of the *American Irish Newsletter*. This means that your name is in the computer as having joined more than once. If this is the case, you will receive more than one renewal notice. If you are experiencing this problem, please drop us a note indicating the same and the month and year you joined. We apologize to those members who might have been inconvenienced.

!EARP!

When you receive your membership (subscription) renewal notice in the mail, you will notice at the bottom of the renewal coupon a request asking if you respond to most Action Letter requests. We are developing an Emergency Action Request Program (EARP). EARP will enable the PEC to contact all *letter writers* on short notice requesting action in the form of a letter pertaining to an important American Irish issue. We recently used EARP to support the John Dearie "Northern Ireland Investment Bill". In this instance we contacted EARP members residing in New York and were able to generate hundreds of letters and phone calls. We also activated EARP asking its members to contact their US Senators urging that they oppose changes to the US-UK Extradition treaty.

EARP can be very effective. We wish that every member would respond to most Action Letter requests. **We urge those of you who do write the letters to indicate YES on the renewal coupon.** Of course, **you do not have to wait for your renewal notice.** It is preferred that you drop us a note to this effect as soon as possible. Also, if there are any doubts as to whether or not you have already provided this information, please drop us a note.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

"widespread, long-term and engrained discrimination against Catholics." He described the Fair Employment Agency as a "paper tiger" with all the right rhetoric and formal policies but no end results. (Irish Times 6/15/85) ... Despite a promise to the Fair Employment Agency to improve the balance in their workforce, Shorts, the Belfast airplane manufacturing firm, which is contracted to build planes for the U.S. Air Force, admitted that the percentage of Catholic recruits in their factory actually fell in the last year. (Irish Echo 7/6/85) ... A report produced by the N.I. Office .. discloses that 28% of Catholics in N.I. are unemployed, compared with 13% of Protestants. Furthermore, a Catholic has only half as good a chance as a Protestant of getting a professional job." A Fair Employment Agency study just published, predicts that for the foreseeable future many more young Catholics than their Protestant contemporaries will be unemployed. (Dolan, Irish Post 7/13/85).

Claire Short, British Labour MP, says "informed opinion" in the House of Commons is that Mrs. Thatcher has little interest in the current Anglo-Irish discussions and the outcome, from a Nationalist standpoint, will be "laughably pathetic." (Sean Cronin,

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FROM THE EDITOR

Many concerned American Irish have asked why the Reagan Administration gives unwavering support to British government (a foreign power) policies in Ireland which are oppressive and undemocratic, over the objections of concerned American citizens. The answer is simple, but not acceptable: American/ British Foreign Policy which does not support Ireland's reunification. This does not mean Ireland's reunification is wrong, but rather, the contrary is true. Our foreign policy regarding Ireland is wrong. Foreign policy is the reason all proposed legislation in the Senate and Congress, opposing British colonialism in Ireland, is blocked by the respected Foreign Relations Committees. Many are starting to interpret this as an anti-American Irish sentiment. Fortunately, we can change American foreign policy as it pertains to a united Ireland.

American foreign policy did not always favor Israel. It was years of hard work and great personal and financial sacrifice on the part of the American Jewish community that changed this. The Jewish community's success did not occur overnight as it took years to build. It was achieved primarily through **EDUCATION** which is what the PEC is all about (education with an eye on the future). Bear in mind there are approximately 6 million American Jews compared to 43 million American Irish in the US.

Since October, 1985 the PEC has been conducting a very successful direct mail membership drive. Our first mailing to 60,000 people (over 10 months) has produced a consistent 3% response or 1800 new members. Our second mailing to these same people, excluding those who already joined, is producing a similar response. These names are picked from telephone books and preferred mailing list from around the U.S. By how much would our membership increase if we were able to reach millions?

Certainly enough to change American foreign policy. At present we could not even attempt to reach these millions only because we do not have the funds. Many of our members do not make donations to the PEC. If every member gave a \$25.00 donation once-a-year (excluding membership renewals) we would certainly be on our way to reaching the millions necessary. What is most demoralizing is that after 10 years of trial and error we have developed an effective program, but now we do not have the funds to carry it out.

There are many ways that you can help. Send a donation if you have not already done so, solicit a new member (subscriber), conduct a fund raiser or sell chance books for the PEC. **Please do help!** Please contact us at: NPEC, Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call 1 (914) 947-2726 between 10 am and 2 pm weekdays.

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Vol. 11, No. 4

"OFFICIAL" TERRORISM (Continued from Page 1)

But the problem is not the "bad apples". The problem is, who is going to control the police and the armed forces; and are they going to be allowed to use police and armed forces to keep a considerable body of people from creating a modern democracy in Ireland — "official" terrorism.

Like many other problems created by British violence in Ireland, the problem of the control of police and military forces has been misrepresented. Control rests in the hands of a British administration which has made it clear that all opposition to the British regime must be branded as terrorism and treated accordingly. To gain international sympathy it is necessary to pretend that the government is fighting against an international conspiracy.

But in fact there is no terrorism in Ireland except that directly created by the government and its agents. What is happening is a severe armed conflict between a powerful government and those who deny the right of that government to impose itself by official terrorism on a population all of whom are misgoverned and many of whom deeply resent and oppose that misgovernment. The term "terrorism", like many of the terms used to describe the Irish situation, is not accurate; it is a government invention and must be firmly rejected as such. The republican army is probably neither better nor worse than other armies in a similar situation; indeed it is interesting to compare the present armed campaign against the British government with that mounted by the republican forces in the period leading up to *partial* Irish independence. The tactics were similar and were equally condemned by churchmen and politicians. Today however that fight for freedom is described by the successors of many of the churchmen and politicians as a glorious struggle; the present day guerilla fighters are condemned. The inability to describe the conflict accurately either in Ireland or abroad is largely due to the effects of British propaganda which has to express itself in terms which the world will understand and sympathize with. Thus for example in the period up to 1969 British policy in Ireland was described as that of protecting the interests of Protestants; after 1969 the purpose was, they said, to protect Catholic lives; by 1972 it was to defeat the IRA that British troops were still on the streets; a few years later, when international opinion was very much exercised by the problems of "international terrorism", the British government responded to this by declaring that the struggle in Ireland was against international terrorism. Finally, with the advent of President Reagan the British government described its role in Ireland as that of "preventing another Cuba" in Ireland.

In other words, even the British government had to find new reasons to justify its continued repression in Ireland, reasons which would be acceptable to other governments; and it had to admit in this way that its struggle in Ireland was really against an ideology, not against lawbreakers. After the hunger strikes the British policy of criminalizing its opponents broke down, after some years of relative success. The RUC and the UDR are seen as weapons in a political and ideological war, not as instruments for keeping the peace.

In view of this, the idea of "British troops out of Ireland" has to be carefully understood. It is not a question simply of withdrawing English, Scottish and Welsh troops back to Britain. It is a matter of *dismantling the whole military apparatus* which the British government has created in Ireland, including the RUC and the UDR. Without that, a British withdrawal of other troops could well lead to a *short* and very bitter internal war. If the British government refuses to dismantle the RUC and the UDR one must then conclude that it intends to cause such a war rather than to create an honorable settlement. Phased withdrawal of British troops means phased dismantling of the military apparatus as a whole as well as phased withdrawal of troops to Britain.

Meanwhile, the British government is giving more and more freedom to both the RUC and UDR to carry out a policy of assassination of political enemies - official terrorism. This is not a new tactic. In the past there was brutal repression of opposition as a matter of course.

After all, the last man to have been judicially condemned to whipping for being a republican is still alive in Belfast.

[Ed Note: A well publicized example of the function of the RUC was the unprovoked and fatal attack on a peaceful assemblage of nationalists in Belfast, N.I. on August 12, 1984.]

NATIONAL POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Founded in 1975

WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE DEFINE "TERRORISM"?

by Hon. Sean Patrick Walsh

Discussions about terrorism call to mind Mark Twain's observation that everybody talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it. This is because the weather cannot be controlled and because, apparently, terrorism cannot be defined.

Former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart once said he couldn't define obscenity, but he knew it when he saw it. It is pretty much the same with terrorism. Politicians, clergymen, and journalists routinely use the word "terrorism" to identify very different circumstances, but they never define the term. Probably because they cannot.

As far as I am aware, there exists no legally accepted definition of "terrorism". There is no provision in any penal code listing "terrorism" as a crime, much less defining it. There is no generally accepted definition of "terrorism" under international law and there is certainly no political agreement among nations as to what sort of activity constitutes "terrorism." Yet the word is continually being used, in a derogatory and pejorative fashion, to describe various sorts of highly controversial current events in such a way as to suggest that there could be no reasonable political or legal disagreement as to the validity of its use.

Newspapers and television newscasts claim to be objective reporters of "who, what, why, when, where, and how." How then, can newspaper and television reporters routinely denounce something they cannot or will not define? Because, like Mr. Justice Stewart, they know it, or think they know it, when they see it. Moreover, it is entirely possible that the reason why they believe they "know" terrorism when they see it is because they are prejudiced with respect to one or more of the participants in the "terrorist" scenario. It would certainly seem, at least in the case of the urban guerrilla warfare in northeastern Ireland, that the American media are predisposed to disfavor the political cause of the Provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

It is common practice to describe the active members of the IRA as "terrorists." It is almost as common a practice to describe the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) fighters as "terrorists." The clear impression left by such a practice is that both groups do "bad" things and if you do not like one, you will not like the other. There is a word for the uncritical dissemination of value judgements without analysis of the facts, viz. propaganda. A principal propaganda method is the technique of establishing "guilt by association" which amounts to judging books by their covers.

The IRA and the PLO are both acronyms which represent groups of human beings engaged in the utilization of armed force to assert various irredentist and nationalistic claims. Although the IRA and the PLO bear a superficial similarity to one another, their adversaries, political philosophies, and organizational histories are quite different. They are regarded by the media, however, as branches of "international terrorism," a phrase which presupposes both an acceptable definition of terrorism and the existence of an international "terror network." Need it be pointed out that the basis for comparison between the IRA and the PLO is that they are "guerrilla forces" fighting against established governments which are politically allied to the United States.

It is quite coincidental that the United Kingdom and Israel are U.S. allies. Some forty years ago, the English were doing everything in their power to prevent the creation of the State of Israel. The striking irony is that the fighters for a Jewish homeland were described by the English as "murderers,"

"criminals," and "terrorists" in precisely the same fashion as the IRA and the PLO are described today by the English and the Israelis, respectively. Clearly, the IRA have no more in common with the PLO than do the English with the Israelis. Yet, it is a matter of currently accepted "wisdom" that England and Israel are "allies" in some sort of war against "international terrorists." Astonishingly, the United States finds itself supporting England and Israel on the grounds of a principle, i.e. non-violent negotiated resolution of political disagreements, which, if effected in 1948, would have prevented the creation of Israel.

To ignore the subtleties of political philosophy in this manner is to mock the idea of intellectual analysis. Such simple-minded equations of the IRA and the PLO would lead to bizarre results if employed in other historical situations. Consider, for example, the fact that Roosevelt and Stalin were allies of Churchill against Hitler. Does this suggest that the political philosophies of these "allies" were similar? Clearly, the answer is "no." To oppose Hitler did not necessarily mean that one endorsed Stalin. By extension, to oppose Margaret Thatcher does not necessarily mean that one endorses Yassir Arafat.

It cannot be denied that the IRA and the PLO are engaged in military operations against internationally recognized governments but, in this respect, the IRA and the PLO do not differ from the various Afghan groups of fighters who oppose Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and to the Nicaraguan armed opponents of the Sandinista regime. I have never seen the Afghan fighters or the "contra Sandinistas" described as "terrorists" by any newspaper, journalist, or politician. Why not?

Generally speaking, a consensus exists in the United States that the Afghan guerrilla forces are "freedom fighters" against the Soviet invaders. There is a similar kind of consensus that the Sandinista regime is "bad" and undemocratic. Those who fight against the Sandinista government are "good guys" seeking to help the people of Nicaragua. Thus, "freedom fighters," "insurgents," "rebels," and even "guerrillas" are terms used to describe groups of fighters whose actions we endorse. "Terrorists," "murderers," "criminals," and "men of violence" are words used to identify those whose actions we oppose. Since the criterion in each case is "do we like them or not," it is rather difficult to establish an analytical framework for distinguishing between our principles and our prejudices.

This is not a particularly enlightening state of affairs. The situation of the IRA is more closely analogous to that of the Afghan mujahedeen than to that of the PLO and, indubitably, bears little similarity to that of the "contra-Sandinistas." The level and intensity of the armed forces involved in Ireland and Afghanistan are different but the tactics and weapons of the respective fighters are comparable. The chief similarity, however, is an imposing one, viz. resistance to the military, however, is an imposing one, viz. resistance to the military forces of a foreign nation. Whatever else may be said about the IRA, it is in Ireland and against the English that they conduct their military operations. If it is "permissible" for an Afghan fighter to sneak up to a Soviet military compound in Kabul and toss a grenade into a barracks, why is it "impermissible" for an Irish fighter to toss a grenade into an English army barracks in Belfast? If it is "understandable" for a Moslem Afghan fighter to "punish" an Afghan woman who socializes with Soviet officers, why is it

(Continued on Next Page)

NO. IRELAND INVESTMENT BILL

Not since the *Hon. Sean Patrick Walsh* (former NYS Legislator) led the successful campaign against the Grand Met Bill in 1983, has there been such an effective American Irish lobby effort in the NYS Legislature. On June 30, by a vote margin of 135-to-12, the NYS Assembly passed Assemblyman *John Dearie's* Northern Ireland Investment-Divestment Bill. In the Senate where it was reported to have plenty of support, the Senate Speaker, Warren Anderson, would not let the Bill out of Committee for a full vote. Hopefully, the Senate will get another chance to pass the Bill when it reconvenes in the fall. We urge all members residing in New York to write and/or call their Senators at their local office urging their support and that they lobby Mr. Anderson.

We have been informed that Senator John Flynn (Yonkers, NY) did not lobby support for the Bill which came as a shock to many as he is *the* sponsor of the Bill in the Senate. This is hard to understand as Mr. Flynn is one of the most influential figures in the Legislature's Republican Conference.

Mr. Dearie acknowledged that the Bill's passage was greatly aided by an effective and intelligent lobby by the American Irish community. The PEC was able to generate hundreds of letters and phone calls in support of the Bill through its *new* Emergency Action Request Program (EARP) which is explained in detail in !EARP! on page two.

We congratulate John Dearie for his sincere and successful efforts.

DEFINE "TERRORISM"? (Continued from Page 4)

"outrageous" for an IRA member to "punish" an Irishman who collaborates with English military officials?

I have no intention of setting forth a definition of terrorism upon which all reasonable persons can agree. Much work remains to be done by lawyers, political scientists, and politicians on this score. My definition of terrorism would seek to cover every use of physical force intended to achieve a political purpose through the creation of fear. Assassination, high-altitude bombing of population centers, some forms of chemical warfare, surprise attacks in general, and the clandestine planting of explosives are all activities aimed at inflicting psychological "terror" upon and weakening the will to resist of an adversary. Who does what to whom is hardly a rational basis for a definition of terrorism. "Good guys" versus "bad guys" is not much help either.

In the case of Ireland, I would be satisfied if journalists openly expressed their political views in writing about the armed conflict in parts of Ulster and abandoned the pretense of objective reporting. If newspapers simply reported that "a bomb was detonated today in Belfast and it is believed to be the work of IRA criminals" it would certainly clear the air a bit. At least we would have an open admission of where the reporter stands. Instead, we get the same sentence with "terrorists" rather than "criminals" and the audience thinks an objective point, as opposed to a value judgement, has been made. It would be a step in the right direction if they adopted the expression "alleged terrorists" because this would at least suggest some doubt exists as to who did what to whom and that reasonable disagreement of opinion in current events is a normal and healthy condition in a free society.

If we recognize that words are often used to advance a political cause, we may be more careful of our own speech. If we learn to say exactly what we mean, we will be less inclined to swallow the propaganda of others. If we really make progress in thinking clearly, we may ultimately discover that our definitions of "good guy" and "bad guy" are as inadequate as is our definition of "terrorist." But the process of education is a challenging one. In the words of Mark Twain, "soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run."

QUEEN OF THE KLONDIKE (Continued from Page 2)

An orchestra played in the lobby. Cutglass chandeliers hung from the ceilings and brass bedsteads occupied the rooms.

All of the Fairview's furnishings had to be packed from Skagway over White Pass in the Coast Mountains of the Alaskan Panhandle and then floated down the Yukon River to Dawson. The trail and the river were rugged and dangerous but; as she did with everything else, Belinda Mulroney went personally to Skagway to supervise the operation.

Mulroney got to Skagway just in the nick of time. Joe Brooks, the packer she had hired, had moved her outfit only two miles up the trail and then dumped it when he received a better offer to transport a cargo of whiskey for Bill McPhee. Mulroney went into a blind rage, and headed for the Skagway wharves. There she recruited a gang of the roughest men she could find. She then instigated a brawl and made the last man standing her foreman.

Now at the head of a group of the toughest men that the Rush of '98 had to offer, Mulroney marched up the trail. Her men beat up Brooks's foreman, dumped McPhee's whiskey onto the side of the trail, and loaded the Fairview's furnishings onto Brooks's mules. Mulroney herself climbed into the saddle of Brooks's own pinto horse and led the entire packtrain safely over the mountains and then down the Yukon in 15 boats.

The Fairview Hotel made gobs of money from the day it opened. In its first 24 hours of operation the bar alone took in \$6000. The dining room was equally lucrative. Thomas Cunningham, an officer on board the *Yukoner*, a ship which plied the waters of the Yukon River, once invited Belinda to have breakfast with him at the hotel. She accepted demurely. For breakfast Cunningham was handed a bill for \$60. He was staggered. "Think of a woman ordering champagne for breakfast!" he exclaimed later. "It's not *done*." Belinda Mulroney did it.

Belinda Mulroney was beginning to gain an international reputation. *Scribner's* magazine was calling her "the richest woman of the Klondike" and others hailed her as the "Queen of Grand Forks," or the "Queen of the Klondike." She was soon to become a character in the novels of James Oliver Curwood and her dog was soon immortalized by Jack London in the *Call of the Wild*.

In October of 1900 she married Charles Eugene Carboneau who called himself a count. Whether he was a count seems dubious. But no matter. The newlyweds went off to Paris, where they rode through the city in a fine carriage pulled by a handsome pair of snow-white horses, with gold-ornamented harness and an Egyptian footman, who unrolled a velvet carpet of brilliant crimson whenever they stepped out. The coal-miner's daughter from Scranton, Pennsylvania, now Countess Carboneau, had come a long way.

Belinda Mulroney Carboneau continued to prosper in the Yukon. She became the only woman mining manager in the territory and it was of the territory's largest mining company, *The Gold Run Mining Company*. The company was in deep financial trouble when she took over. In 18 months she had the company on its feet again.

Belinda and her husband finally left the Far North in 1910 and settled on a large ranch near Yakima, Washington. They traveled frequently to Europe where Carboneau became a bank director and a steamship magnate. They sank all their money in the steamship company but were wiped out when World War I brought an end to merchant shipping. Carboneau became a purchasing agent for the Allies and was killed by German artillery fire when touring the Front. Belinda returned to her ranch. She later sold it and moved to Seattle where she lived until she died in her late eighties. Belinda Mulroney was one of many Irish women who helped make America great.

(Ed Note: Dr. McGrath is a professor of history at UCLA and the author of *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* published by the University of California Press, 1984.)

URGENT ACTION LETTER (*Extradition*)

by Albert Doyle

The June/July Newsletter gave an update on the Joe Doherty case. It showed the extremes to which our Justice Department had gone in carrying out the Administration's pro-British policies. There is now further evidence of this policy — despite desperate efforts to keep this activity from public view.

In our last update on the Doherty case, we reported that the Government, having lost the extradition case on the grounds that his offense was "political" within the legal meaning of the term as applied to extradition proceedings (as had been found by three other U.S. Courts in the similar Mackin, Quinn and McMullen cases), at the urging of the British, our erstwhile public-servants of the Justice Department decided to try a novel approach to get around U.S. legal rules which prevent government appeal in extradition cases. Without going into legal details, these paragons of "Justice" sought to circumvent established principles by seeking a Declaratory Judgment as a subterfuge for review of the decision in Doherty's favor.

This time another Federal Judge, Judge Charles Haight of the U.S. District Court gave indications that even the Judiciary was getting fed-up with this campaign of vindictiveness. When the Government attorneys threatened that the Court must decide their way since they would otherwise keep filing new extradition cases against Doherty (which believe it or not, they can do!) Thus, presumably tying-up the Courts "until a favorable decision is obtained", Judge Haight had enough. He said in his opinion, "If this statement was intended to intimidate this Court, it does not; and, query, whether unlimited repetitions of judicially rejected contentions comport with the dignity of the United States Attorney's Office."

What next? The Administration's plans are clear. They are going to fix it by changing the legal rules — retroactively. At the direction of the British the State Department has renegotiated the US-UK Extradition Treaty to eliminate the "political offense" defense. This, coupled with their ability to refile new extradition proceedings, will

allow them to extradite Joe Doherty by changing the rules after they have lost the game.

This Treaty must be ratified by two-thirds of the U.S. Senate. At the time of this writing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to begin *hurried* hearings on the treaty changes on August 1. Please write and/or call Senator Richard Lugar, even if you have already done so. He can be reached by calling (202) 224-3121. Please write the letter below in your own words or as is, on your own stationery. Please urge your friends, relatives and organizations do the same. **If, when you receive this Newsletter, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has already completed its hearings, simply modify this letter accordingly, and send it to your U.S. Senators.**

address & date

Honorable Richard Lugar
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

I urge you to hold full and fair hearings on the Administration's proposal to amend the US-UK Extradition Treaty to eliminate the political offense exception. Opponents should be heard and should be given adequate time to testify after hearing the proponents. I suggest the hearings be held open until after the coming recess to allow this. In any event, the proposals should be rejected as they are not compatible with US legal traditions. The purported reasons for this change will not stand up under scrutiny. They are not directed against anti-US terrorism and they would allow extradition of individuals to a criminal justice system often criticized as one of the most unfair in the world, the Northern Ireland system.

Sincerely,

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

We have not yet had a response from Anheuser Busch concerning its St. Patrick's Day promotions of Budwieser beer which degrade the Irish image. If any of you have had a response from them, please forward us a copy.

BAD NEWS MOYNIHAN

US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has again socked it to the American Irish community. Prior to St. Patrick's Day, 1985 he committed himself to introduce legislation to create a special envoy to deal with the war in Ireland. He succeeded in generating much favorable St. Patrick's Day publicity for himself, which was probably his objective. He has since stated he will not push the Bill as it is opposed by the Reagan Administration. Truly a weak "leader". We hope that the American Irish remember this and learn from it!

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 2)

Irish Times 6/15/85) ... A N.I. High Court judge blamed the British Army for the death of a Belfast man, Michael Donnelly, then 21, who was killed by a plastic bullet in August, 1980. The judge awarded 8,500 pounds in damages to Michael's father and ruled that the shooting had not taken place during a riot as alleged by the army at the time. Although eye witnesses at the original inquest had given evidence that no riot took place, the N.I. prosecutor decided not to indict any soldiers. (Troops Out 7/85).

LONDON — Allegations by President Reagan of links between the IRA and the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua are unsupported by evidence known to diplomats here ... US officials ... could offer nothing at all to substantiate Mr. Reagan's charges — only embarrassed grins ... The British Embassy in Managua was unaware of an IRA link. (London Times 7/13/85).

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